management works, in critical areas. Since the financial year 2004-05, the Government of India has provided central assistance amounting to Rs.971.13 crore to the States upto 31.1.2009 under different plan schemes.

Repair works of Kosi embankment

†228.SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to leakage in embankment of Kosi river at Kusaha during last year, five districts in Bihar had been immersed in water which had been admitted as a National calamity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the repair works are going on the above site; and

(d) if so, the date by which this work will be completed and the amount spent by Government till date on this construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to breach in Eastern Afflux Bund of Kosi Barrage near Kusaha (Nepal), five districts in Bihar, namely, Madhepura, Araria, Supaul, Saharsa and Purnea were reported affected by the unprecedented flood. As per the press note released from the Disaster Management Department of the Government of Bihar dated 6.11.2008, the total population affected was reported as 33.56 lakh and the number of villages as 993.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The repair works of Eastern Afflux Bund of Kosi Barrage near Kusaha (Nepal) are under implementation and scheduled to be completed by 31st March, 2009 and as per the works planned by the State Government of Bihar. An amount of Rs. 39.90 crore was released in October, 2008 to the Government of Bihar as an advance for this work.

Construction of Dams

229. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Bihar is destined to face the disaster year after year unless high dams constructed in the upper reaches of at least three rivers – Kosi, Kamla and Bagmati, all of which originate from Nepal;

(b) if so, whether Government has worked out any preventive plan in details through negotiation with Nepal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For early implementation of high dams on river Kosi, Kamla and Bagmati in Nepal, the Government of India is in constant dialogue with the Government of Nepal. For this purpose, a Joint Project Office -Saptakosi and Sunkosi Investigations (JPO-SKSKI) has already been set up in August, 2004 at Biratnagar (Nepal), for conducting detailed field investigations, in order to prepare

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi